

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 OC-05 CCO-00

ACDA-05 IO-10 AID-05 ERDA-05 NRC-05 MC-02 ACDE-00

ERDE-00 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 36

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

OIC NAVDET SOUDA BAY NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR/POLAD IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN/POLAD IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR/POLAD IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE/POLAD IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH/POLAD IMMEDIATE

6931 SCTY GRP IMMEDIATE

IRAKLION AIR FORCE BASE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 6189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES STATEMENT EXPLAINING  
STATUS OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS ON CRETE

1. GREEK ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUED A STATEMENT  
AUGUST 13 INTENDED AS A REPLY TO SPATE OF STORIES IN  
GREEK PRESS OVER RECENT WEEKS AND MONTHS IN CONNECTION  
WITH BOTH THE NAMFI GUIDED MISSILE FIRING RANGE IN  
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CRETE AS WELL AS THE STATUS OF FACILITIES GRANTED TO

THE U.S. BY GREECE. STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY GEARED BOTH TO "SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT" ONCE AND FOR ALL AND TO SERVE NOTICE TO GREEK PRESS THAT GOG WILL BE MONITORING ITS REPORTING IN THE FUTURE WITH THE INTENTION TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION OF NECESSARY SHOULD DISTORTIONS OF THE TURTH RELEVANT TO SUCH MATTERS REAPPEAR IN THE FUTURE. TEXT OF THE STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. BECAUSE PART OF THE PRESS CONTINUES TO CLAMOR ABOUT THE GUIDED MISSILES FIRING RANGE IN CRETE AND THE STATUS OF FACILITIES GRANTED TO THE UNITED STATES BY GREECE, THE ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT: IT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY AND RESPONSIBLY STATED IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, IN ANSWER TO PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND INTERPELLATIONS, THE THE FIRING RANGE IN CRETE IS ADMINISTRATIVELY UNDER THE CHIEF OF THE GREEK ARMED FORCES, UNDER THE COMMAND OF A GREEK SENIOR OFFICER, AND IT IS FULLY MANNED WITH OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF OUR ARMED FORCES. ONLY LIAISON OFFICERS AND EVALUATORS OF THE PRACTICE RANGE SERVE FROM THE COUNTRIES WHICH PERIODICALLY SEND UNITS TO CARRY OUR PRACTICE FIRING. BESIDES, IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR REPEATEDLYAND MOST CATEGORICALLY THAT ONLY TRACTICAL PRACTICE CONVENTIONAL MISSILES ARE LAUNCHED AT THE CRETE RANGE AND TAT NO MISSILES WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS ARE USED OR IN STORAGE. THE ABVOE-MENTIONED CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE CRETE RANGE IS A MODER, FULLY-EQUIPPED AND STRONG MILITARY TRAINING CENTER. THIS CENTER PRIMARILY SERVES THE TRAINING NEEDS OF GREEK MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND AT THE SAME TIME IT PERIODICALLY SERVES THE NEEDS OF ARMY UNITS OF BELGIUM, GERMANY, GOLLAND AND THE UNITED STATES. IT IS NECESSARY TO RE-EMPHASIZE THAT, IF THE CRETE RANGE DID NOT EXIST FOR THE TRAING AND EVALUATION OF GREEK GUIDED MISSILE UNITS, THE GREEK ARMED FORCES WOULD BE OBLIGED TO SEND A LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL ABROAD, SUS-TAIN HIGH EXPENDITURES IN VALUABLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND STILL NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY TRAINED PERSONNEL. ALSO, CONCERNING THE CLAMOR CAUSED SOMETIMES BY SENTIMENTAL

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MOTIVES, WRONG AND IRRESPONSIBLE ASSESSMENTS AND NOT RARELY BY FALSE RUMORS ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE FACILITIES WHICH GREECE GRANTS ON ITS TERRITORY TO THE UNITED STATES, THE FOLLOWING IS CATEGORICALLY STATED: (1.) AS HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY AND REPEATEDLY STATED, NO U.S. FACILITIES ARE GOING TO BE TRANSFERRED TO CRETE FROM CONTINENTAL GREECE. SUCH A QUESTION HAS NEVER BEEN RAISED OR DISCUSSED.

(2.) THE ACTIVITY OF THE U.S. FACILITIES IN CRETE IS NOT GOING TO BE INCREASED OR EXPANDED. THIS ACTIVITY, FROM MANY ASPECTS, IS INTERLINKED WITH THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE.

(3.) NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY WITH THE AMERICANS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THEIR FACILITIES IN GREECE: THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL IN PROGRESS.

(4.) ON THE PART OF GREECE, THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS AND FUTURE OF THE FACILITIES GRANTED TO THE AMERICANS IS BEING EXAMINED ON THE BASIS OF DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING THE MORE GENERAL NATIONAL INTEREST AS THE ONLY CRITERION.

(5.) THE RUMOR THAT BECAUSE OF THE U.S. FACILITIES CRETE IS THE MAIN TARGET IN CASE OF A WORLD OR LOCAL WAR IS ENTIRELY INACCURATE. OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY ARE CLEARLY MORE SENSITIVE FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, BUT THEIR INHABITANTS DO NOT PROTEST. IN CRETE THERE IS THE TIMBAKION MILITARY AIRFIELD WHICH IS OF THE HIGHEST SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE GREEK ARMED FORCES AND, FOR THIS REASON, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT IT BE COMPLETED. IT WAS THOUGHT IN THE PAST THAT THIS AIRFIELD SHOULD ALSO MEET THE NEEDS OF PRACTICE FIRING BY AIR FORCE FLIGHT UNITS OF OTHER STATES ON THE BASIS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, UNDER THE SAME STATUS, OF COURSE, OF TRAINING FACILITIES AS THAT OF THE CRETE RANGE. THE AIMLESS CLAMOR RAISED ALSO ABOUT THE AMERICAN LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS IN THE GOURNAI AREA AT IRAKLION WAS AND IS DERIVED FROM IMAGINATION AND NOT REALITY. NO NUCLEAR WARHEADS OR CONVENTIONAL MISSILES OR BOMBS ARE STORED AT THE INSTALLATIONS IN QUESTION. THE STATUS AND FUTURE OF THESE FACILITIES IS BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE AMERICANS TOGETHER WITH THE WHOLE QUESTION OF FACILITIES IN GREECE IN THE AFOREMENTIONED SPIRIT. THIS STATEMENT CONCERNING THE  
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CONTINUING CLAMOR ABOUT WHAT THE PRESS CALLS U.S. BASES AND THE CRETE FIRING RANGE IS ISSUED TO THAT THE PROUD AND PATRIOTIC PEOPLE OF CRETE WILL NOT BE MISLED. HOWEVER, IN ADDITION TO THE ANXIETIES OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH IGNORANCE, CERTAIN LIMITED CIRCLES, IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS, ALSO PUBLISH FACTS REFERRING STRICTLY TO OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE, AS A RESULT OF WHICH THEY OFFER VALUABLE SERVICES TO THE COUNTRY'S ENEMIES. THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ALREADY

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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ACDA-05 IO-10 AID-05 ERDA-05 NRC-05 MC-02 ACDE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 37

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

OIC NAVDET SOUDA BAY NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR/POLAD IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN/POLAD IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR/POLAD IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE/POLAD IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH/POLAD IMMEDIATE

6931 SCTY GRP IMMEDIATE

IRAKLION AIR FORCE BASE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 6189

INSTRUCTED THAT FROM NOW ON ANY FACT REFERRING TO OUR  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AND LIABLE TO DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY  
HARM THE NATION'S SECURITY SHOULD BE EXAMINED ON THE  
BASIS OF EXISTING LEGISLATION ON ITS PROTECTION. END  
TEXT.

3. GREEK PRESS MORNING AUGUST 14 PROMINENTLY FEATURED  
ARMED FORCES COMMAND STATEMENT - FOR MOST PART AFFORDING  
IT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT. SAMPLE HEADLINES: KATHIMERINI  
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(CONSERVATIVE), "GREEKS ARE COMMANDING AND CONTROLLING BALLISTIC CENTER IN CRETE: THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR MISSILES"; TO VIMA (LIBERAL-OPPOSITION), "U.S. FACILITIES IN CRETE ARE NOT TO BE EXTENDED: ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES STRONG WARNING CONCERNING VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS"; AKROPOLIS (CONSERVATIVE), "THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON CRETE: THE BALLISTIC CENTER IS UNDER GREEK CONTROL".

4. IN A RELATED STORY APPEARING IN GREEK PRESS AUGUST 14, STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY CENTER UNION/ NEW FORCES DEPUTY CONSTANTINE KONIOTAKIS (REPRESENTING HERAKLION, CRETE) EXPRESSING HIS FEARS THAT NOT ENOUGH SERIOUS ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE ANXIETIES OF THE CRETAN POPULATION REGARDING THE RUMORED ESTABLISHMENT, EXTENSION OR TRANSFERRAL OF U.S. BASES ONTO THE ISLAND. IN ORDER TO SATISFY PUBLIC OPINION, HE SUGGESTS THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WITH EXPERIENCE IN MILITARY MATTERS SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE ENTIRE MATTER.

5. AFTERNOON PRESS AUGUST 14 REPORTED STATEMENT ISSUED BY PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU IN RESPONSE TO ARMED FORCES COMMAND STATEMENT WHICH ASSERTED THAT GOG MUST ANSWER THREE BASIC QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE TERM "GREEK CONTROL" (AS APPLIED TO INSTALLATIONS), I.E. (1) ARE THEY NATO BASES, (2) MAY NATO USE THEM WITHOUT GREEK APPROVAL, AND (3) MAY GREECE USE THEM WITHOUT NATO APPROVAL. PAPANDREOU DECLARED THAT IF THERE SHOULD BE NO ANSWER TO THESE CRITICAL QUESTIONS, THEN "IT IS PREFERABLE FOR GOG TO KEEP QUIET" ON THE MATTER.

6. COMMENT: INTEREST IN U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE HAS INDEED BEEN BUILDING STEADILY DURING THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR, WITH A NOTICEABLE SPURT OF SPECIAL ATTENTION BEING DEVOTED TO U.S. PRESENCE IN CRETE DURING THE COURSE OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS. ONE PARTICULARLY PERSISTENT RUMOR SUGGESTED THAT SHOULD U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE BE DIMINISHED IN ATTICA AREA, IT WOULD BE INCREASED PROPORTIONATELY IN CRETE. CONFIDENTIAL

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GOF HAS ALREADY HAD TO COUNTER SUCH CHARGES WITH OFFICIAL DENIALS BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS, E.G. MAY 24 (ATHENS 3882), JUNE 5 (ATHENS 4203) AND FINALLY ON JUNE 27 (ATHENS 4811). POLITICAL OPPOSITION - PARTICULARLY THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU - HAVE BEEN QUICK TO EXPLOIT ISSUE BY DEMANDING REMOVAL OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS

FROM CRETE. GOG IS NOW BEGINNING TO SHOW INCREASED CONCERN AS IS OBVIOUS FROM SCOPE AND CONTENT OF STATEMENT SET FORTH ABOVE. FACT THAT ITS STATEMENT INCLUDES WARNING OF POSSIBLE LEGAL SANCTIONS TO BE IMPOSED ON PAPERS WHICH PERSIST IN PUBLISHING FALSE REPORTS ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL SECURITY UNDERLINES THE SENSITIVITY BEING FELT IN GREEK CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP QUARTER.

7. AS A FINAL INDICATOR OF INCREASED LEVEL OF GENERAL INTEREST OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN CRETE, ATHENS-BASED NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT STEPHEN ROBERTS WILL BE TRAVELING TO SOUDA BAY THIS WEEKEND IN ORDER TO TAKE A READING OF POPULAR FEELING RELEVANT TO U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN CRETE. HE IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH AS WIDE A SEGMENT AS POSSIBLE OF GREEK OFFICIALDOM AND CITIZENRY AND ALSO WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS. KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MPOL, GR, US  
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